

State of Alaska FY2007 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game Sport Fisheries Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Sport Fisheries Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

The mission of the Division of Sport Fish is to protect and improve the state's recreational fisheries resources.

Core Services

Fishery Stock Assessment: The division regularly assesses fish populations that are the basis of our state's recreational and personal use fisheries to assure sustained yield from these fishery resources.

Fishery Management: Develops fishery regulations/management plans in coordination with Board of Fisheries and other regulatory boards to manage recreational and personal use fisheries for sustained yields.

Hatchery Production: Maintains or supports 3 hatcheries producing chinook/coho salmon, rainbow trout, char and grayling to provide added and more diverse recreational fishing opportunities that do not affect wild stocks or their fisheries.

Access Development, Maintenance and Defense: The division builds, buys, leases, and maintains access to fisheries for the benefit of Alaska's recreational and personal use fishers.

Habitat Assessment and Restoration: The division provides habitat assessment and restoration expertise and assistance in the management of legislatively-designated Special Areas.

Information and Education Services: The division supports an outreach program to inform and educate the public regarding sport fishing opportunities, regulations, and the life histories of fishes and their habitat needs.

Enforcement: The division assists in the development and enforcement of state laws and regulations to assure orderly and legal recreational and personal use fisheries.

Planning and Survey: The division monitors the preferences of Alaska's public regarding the management of Alaska's recreational and personal use fisheries through strategic planning and surveys of public opinion.

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p>A: Sustain recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing social and economic benefits from these opportunities.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Provide 2.5 Million angler days and sell 450,000 licenses.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Total number of angler days and number of licensed anglers.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> A positive trend in trip related expenditures as measured by the National Survey of Hunting and Fishing.</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> Trend in the line graphing trip related expenditures.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Increase to at least 75% the number of anglers that are satisfied with the variety of recreational fisheries experiences available.</p> <p><u>Measure #3:</u> Percent of anglers satisfied with the variety</p>	<p>A1: Sustain recreational fisheries targeting wild stocks.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Maintain the recreational harvest and catch of wild stocks (1998 - 2003 average).</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Number of Wild fish harvested and caught at the 5 year running average.</p> <p>A2: Increase recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Maintain the number of stocked fish caught (1999-2003 average)</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Number of stocked fish caught reported by harvest and catch.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Maintain the harvest of hatchery-produced fish (1999-2003).</p>

of experiences available.

Measure #2: Number of hatchery-produced fish harvested.

A3: Conserve, manage and enhance habitat to sustain fish and wildlife resources while optimizing social and economic benefit

Target #1: Provide scientifically sound instream flow recommendations to sustain fish production for at least five percent of high priority streams identified annually by Division of Sport Fish staff .

Measure #1: Percent of high priority streams identified by Division of Sport Fish staff.

A4: Manage Alaska's special areas in accordance with legislative guidelines

Target #1: Review and issue, if appropriate, 90% of special area permits within 30 days

Measure #1: Number of special area permits issued within 30 days

Target #2: Increase by 1 the number of special management areas that have current management plans

Measure #2: Percent change in number of special management areas that have management plans

A5: To maintain access to public resources

Target #1: Complete an average of 3 boating access projects per year over 5 years.

Measure #1: Number of boating access projects completed annually.

Target #2: One hundred percent of legal access related documents (ANCSA conveyances, native allotment conveyances, municipal conveyances, subdivision plats, section line easements) received are reviewed within specified timeframes.

Measure #2: Percent of legal access related documents received that are reviewed within specified timeframes.

A6: Educate Alaskans about the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for future generations.

Target #1: Increase the education efforts in Sport Fish Education Programs to 30,000 participants and to 60,000 contact hours.

Measure #1: The number of participants and student contact hours for educational programs.

A7: Maintain a diverse, dedicated, motivated, empowered, and effective workforce

Target #1: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees that report being motivated and empowered.

Measure #1: Percentage of employees that report being

	<p>motivated and empowered.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Increase to at least 90% the number of employees that receive evaluations.</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of employees that receive evaluations.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Increase to at least 90% the number of employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.</p> <p><u>Measure #3:</u> Percentage of employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.</p> <p>A8: Maintain the sustainability of nongame aquatic fish and invertebrate populations</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy by June 2005.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Plan completion and approval by the October 2005 deadline.</p>
--	---

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop measurable and achievable management objectives based on sustained yield principles that are consistent with Alaska's Constitution. • Obtain and report information on the development, achievement, and evaluation of management objectives. • Develop enforceable regulations and emergency orders to achieve management objectives utilizing all available information. • Evaluate if regulations achieve management objectives. • Manage fish aquaculture to preserve sustained yield from wild stocks. • Manage populations of aquatic nuisance species to preserve sustained yield from wild stocks. • Determine the fishing opportunities sought by the angling public with regard to resident, anadromous, and marine fishes. • Develop a range of fishing opportunities, recognizing variation among anglers relative to income, age, experience, ability and opportunities they seek. • Provide regulators with management options that meet the demand for recreational fishing opportunities. • Publicize fishing opportunities. • Enhance fisheries to meet demand, consistent with existing department policies. • Improve liaison between ADF&G and the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection in prosecuting violators. • Increase compliance by providing the public with effective education and guidance as required. • Encourage public "peer pressure" among anglers to increase compliance with regulations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, review, and prioritize research needs. • Develop and implement research programs to assess the relationships between fish production and associated habitats. • Inform and educate the public about the results of research projects and the benefits of scientifically sound research. • Develop and support partnerships with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to foster and conduct sound scientific research. • Assess and define habitat critical to key non-game populations. • Develop a comprehensive non-game management plan for populations identified as at risk. • Implement a primary and secondary curriculum focused on stewardship. • Regularly identify and prioritize issues related to stewardship. • Develop and update pamphlets detailing recreational fishing opportunities. • Conduct in partnership with organizations, kids and family fishing days to develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes for being responsible anglers. • Evaluate constraints on fishing participation and develop approaches for addressing management related constraints. • Partner with various organizations to publicize opportunities, facilities, and equipment available for disabled anglers. • Establish principles and guidelines for public involvement. • Regularly identify and evaluate the significance of emerging issues. • Develop action plans to address controversial |
|--|--|

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- Identify issues that threaten sustainability.
- Support regular communications (phone contacts, meetings, etc.) with stakeholders to discuss management and research activities.
- Provide regulators with social and economic assessments of management options under consideration.
- Develop/review criteria to evaluate the compatibility of public access to fisheries with the aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats they affect.
- Fix problems at existing public access sites where significant damage to habitat has occurred.
- Inform and educate the public about responsible fishing practices that minimize impacts to habitat.
- Develop and support partnerships with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to address responsible public access to fisheries.
- Review and/or develop policies and regulations, and provide advice on laws to promote responsible public access to fisheries.
- Inform and educate the public about responsible aquaculture practices.
- Review and/or develop aquaculture policies and regulations, and provide advice on laws to ensure effective and responsible aquaculture.
- Develop and/or review criteria to evaluate the impacts of aquatic nuisance species.
- Review existing and proposed management practices for aquatic nuisance species.
- Eliminate or minimize present populations of aquatic nuisance species where practical.
- Inform and educate the public regarding issues concerning aquatic nuisance species.
- Review and monitor proposed and existing land and water development projects.
- Review and comment on mitigation associated with land and water development.
- Inform and educate the public regarding responsible land and water development.
- Review and/or develop policies and regulations, and provide advice on laws to ensure responsible land and water development.
- Partner with other state agencies to provide input into permit reviews by the department.
- Develop and/or review criteria on the quantity and quality of water needed to sustain fish, wildlife and vegetation.
- Identify and prioritize water bodies that need protection or restoration.
- Review and monitor proposed and existing water use projects.
- Review and comment on mitigation associated with water uses.
- Review/develop policies/regulations, provide advice on laws to ensure sufficient water quality/quantity management issues.
- Foster an improved understanding of regulatory processes.
- Monitor our effectiveness in involving and informing the public.
- Develop regional outreach programs to provide I&E on on job types/career opps. w/division, targeting highschool/college level in rural/urban comm.
- Consider using local hires for project support when appropriate, particularly for projects in rural areas.
- Fund/award a min. 4 annual American Fisheries Society Hutton Junior Fisheries Scholarships, at least one from other than FBX, ANCH, JNU.
- Promote merits and quality of work conducted by division employees and the potential for personal and professional accomplishments and contributions.
- Utilize student interns for proj. support where appropriate to expose students to the division and develop skills for employment with the division.
- Provide work experience/training opps. to seasonal/temp. staff so they can excel in current positions and compete for advanced perm/fulltime positions
- Fund at least three graduate-level fishery positions at universities.
- Create a division training program to coordinate the identification of training needs and scheduling of opportunities for training.
- Evaluate employee performance on a scheduled basis/provide opportunity for feedback on supervision/understanding responsibilities/job related needs.
- Reinstate an in-house training program of short courses on technical, administrative, and managerial subjects relative to job success.
- Develop an orientation manual for new employees.
- Develop/cross-train individual staff w/diverse and comprehensive knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide flexibility when balancing workloads.
- Actively promote monetary compensation competitive with other gov. agencies/private industry and communicate efforts to staff annually.
- Establish guidelines and criteria for recognizing achievements by individual staff.
- Ask all employees leaving divisional employment to fill out a confidential "debriefing" questionnaire to address reasons the employee is leaving.
- Develop an efficient, vertically integrated budgetary system that meets the needs of area, regional, and headquarters staff.
- Foster a work environment where decision-making skills are developed and recognized and authorities are clearly defined.
- Foster environment where staff have appropriate level of involvement in decisions affecting their work

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

necessary to sustain habitats and fisheries.

- environment/assigned duties/effectiveness
- Assert Alaska's sovereignty to manage the state's fishery resources.
- Review/provide input to Div. of Admin. to ensure a career ladder exists entirely within the division for all job class series including admin. series.
- Review/provide input to Div. of Admin to ensure minimum qualifications for all job classes are appropriate without being overly restrictive.

FY2007 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2007 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$47,056,000

Personnel:

Full time 245

Part time 217

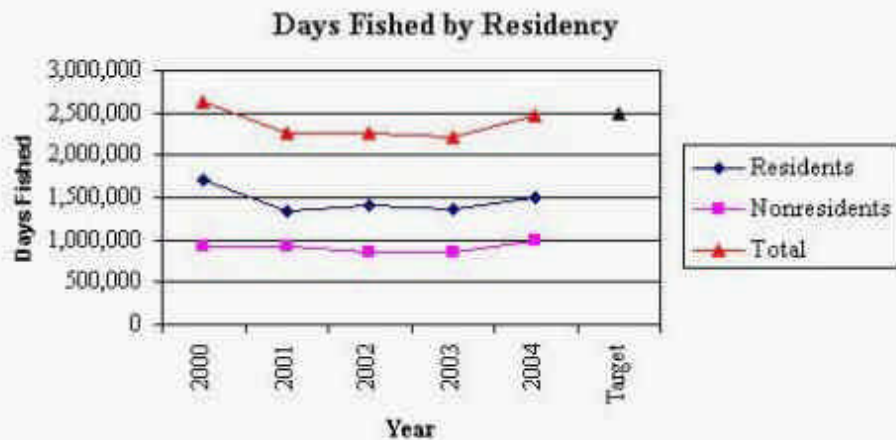
Total 462

Performance Measure Detail

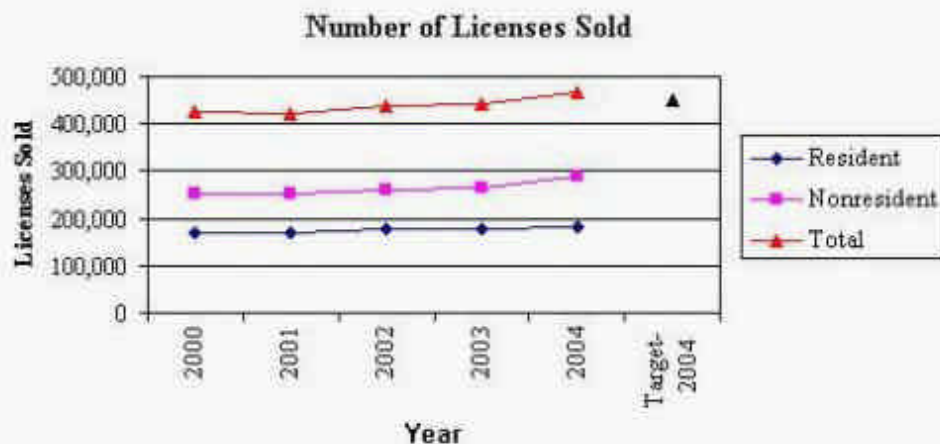
A: Result - Sustain recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing social and economic benefits from these opportunities.

Target #1: Provide 2.5 Million angler days and sell 450,000 licenses.

Measure #1: Total number of angler days and number of licensed anglers.



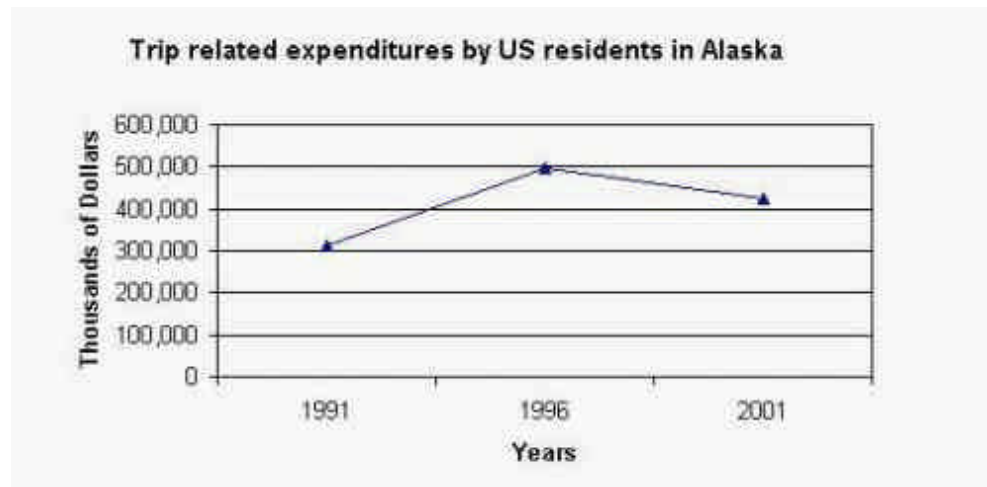
Note: Data for this measure is derived in whole or in part from the statewide harvest survey. Due to the timing of the survey the 2004 data is the most recent available.



Analysis of results and challenges: The Division of Sport Fish met its target for participation in 2004.

Target #2: A positive trend in trip related expenditures as measured by the National Survey of Hunting and Fishing.

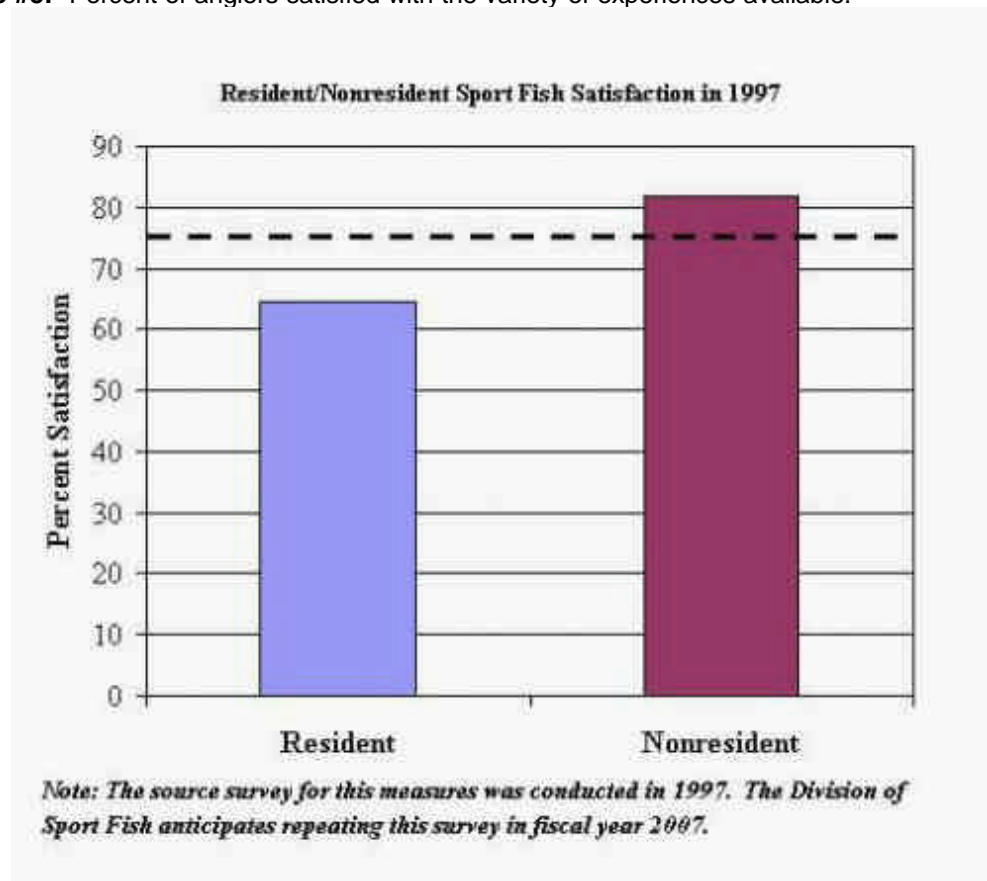
Measure #2: Trend in the line graphing trip related expenditures.



Analysis of results and challenges: This graph shows the trend in fishing trip expenditures is generally positive. In 2003, ASA issued updated figures for economic impacts of sport fishing for each state, which showed that sport fishing-related jobs and expenditures have increased approximately 9% in Alaska since 2001. Sport fishing expenditures in Alaska were estimated to be \$640 million in 2003, and this generated 12,065 jobs and \$259 million in wages and salaries. This spending ultimately circulated through the economy and generated an estimated \$1.04 billion in total fishing-related spending in Alaska.

Target #3: Increase to at least 75% the number of anglers that are satisfied with the variety of recreational fisheries experiences available.

Measure #3: Percent of anglers satisfied with the variety of experiences available.



Analysis of results and challenges: Additional surveys over time will be necessary to further assess success

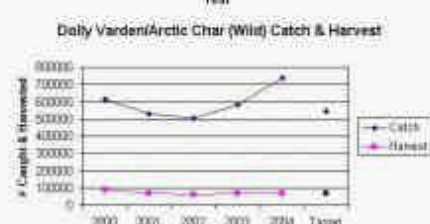
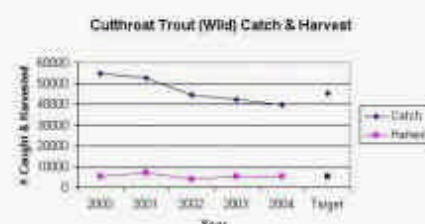
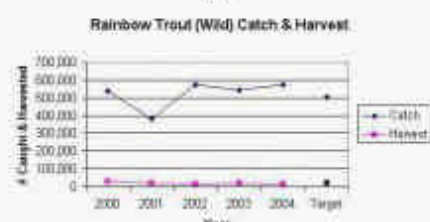
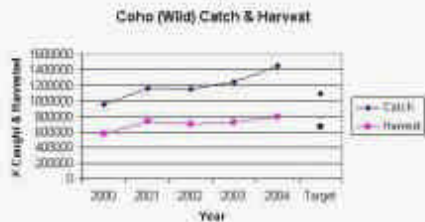
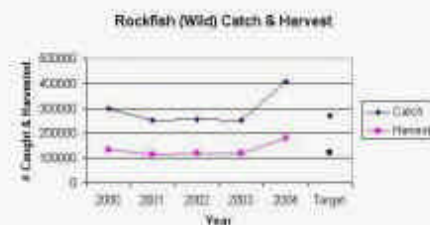
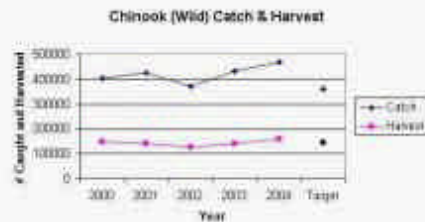
on this measure.

A1: Strategy - Sustain recreational fisheries targeting wild stocks.

Target #1: Maintain the recreational harvest and catch of wild stocks (1998 - 2003 average).

Measure #1: Number of Wild fish harvested and caught at the 5 year running average.

Harvest	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 Target	Catch	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 Target	
Blacknose loach	34818	12585	14852	10531	13818	10531	315,578	589,328	576,008	345,518	575,880	125136
Arctic grayling	38184	23630	37818	87182	38238	38887	575,218	478,342	438,144	240,644	315,182	547032
Dolly Varden/Arctic char	14181	10752	9952	14291	21413	14413	283,548	216,201	305,147	222,251	370,252	87031
Lake trout	5282	4885	7099	7894	7838	6663	32,178	36,983	43,218	22,434	64,013	20384
Coho salmon	37888	33339	30632	32012	37283	30788	151,933	144,238	136,382	134,533	142,948	119483
Chinook salmon	18937	18487	12864	14126	15803	14261	481,133	425,781	372,237	431,141	448,124	429972
Steelhead salmon	43883	25881	19243	44782	44833	41258	753,887	497,221	403,923	433,623	352,138	725781
Kokanee	23	17	20	0	66	30	1,548	111	132	44	834	415
Fish salmon	14177	13458	17844	15845	15381	15771	955,705	280,721	828,783	675,401	507,844	821848
Chum salmon	41814	37286	38737	34110	32548	34612	373,366	313,713	345,711	384,118	342,038	236382
Steelhead	387	421	128	307	330	419	41,488	25,391	25,088	24,588	30,730	27422
Cutthroat trout	2022	5826	4893	2532	4972	3274	54,732	32,338	44,480	48,237	38,982	46739
Brook trout	134	225	387	0	0	132	846	3,044	1,814	1,381	1,127	1888
Waterside jake	18882	25422	22471	17388	27799	20888	185,247	188,234	115,711	36,111	184,188	122081
Whitefish	2122	7288	2488	2274	8777	3118	10,212	13,172	13,380	13,628	16,791	12388
Walleye	2888	3788	8118	8888	3788	6888	17,888	5284	12,011	8,784	8,111	10142
Shorthead	2837	1220	1211	3811	2542	2275	3,913	7,468	4,013	8,218	4,622	3288
Steel	7782	14887	8834	7188	14295	8282	81,182	88,222	205,788	45,288	78,124	81384
Paoli kokoi	41888	38128	18888	48888	48130	41188	388,318	408,371	385,118	492,781	411,171	488471
Rainbow	21188	11818	12888	11818	18843	12842	281,188	213,124	225,488	220,238	402,241	280378
Lingcod	38817	38737	20281	21281	28888	38824	48,888	38,732	43,444	35,523	85,112	87382
Rainbow trout	47817	17881	88888	38818	52842	48418	175,271	87,208	188,888	380,018	558,248	684124
Chinook	2181	3888	11,881	38877	24,288	24827	64,538	47,848	42,471	45,112	64,714	24884
Total	3,002,181	2,014,733	2,008,892	2,028,881	2,088,888	2,077,778	7,281,187	5,001,930	6,741,680	5,791,882	7,318,034	585113



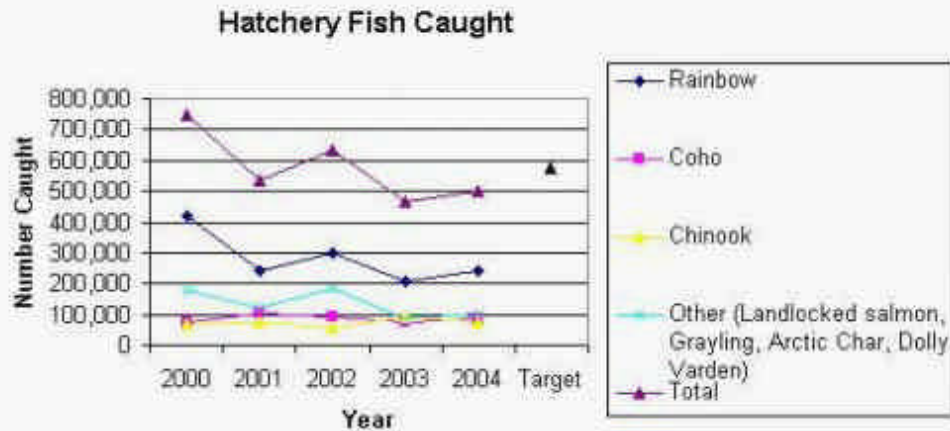
Note: Data for this measure is derived in whole or in part from the Statewide Harvest Survey. Due to the timing of the survey the 2004 data is the most recent available.

Analysis of results and challenges: The Division of Sport Fish generally met or exceeded its targets for catch and harvest of wild stocks.

A2: Strategy - Increase recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.

Target #1: Maintain the number of stocked fish caught (1999-2003 average)

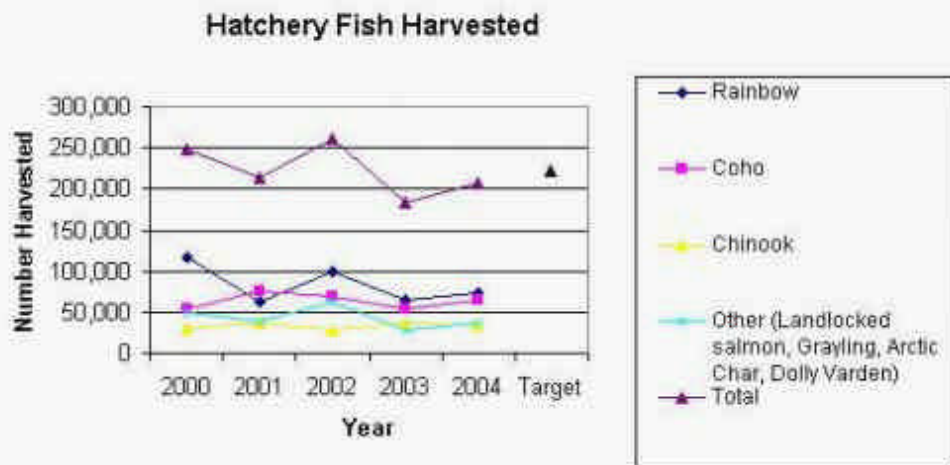
Measure #1: Number of stocked fish caught reported by harvest and catch.



Analysis of results and challenges: Given current challenges of hatchery production, the Division of Sport Fish has done a good job of attaining performance objectives and is poised to increase performance as hatchery production capacity is upgraded.

Target #2: Maintain the harvest of hatchery-produced fish (1999-2003).

Measure #2: Number of hatchery-produced fish harvested.



Analysis of results and challenges: Given current challenges of hatchery production, the Division of Sport Fish has done a good job of attaining performance objectives and is poised to increase performance as hatchery production capacity is upgraded.

A3: Strategy - Conserve, manage and enhance habitat to sustain fish and wildlife resources while optimizing social and economic benefit

Target #1: Provide scientifically sound instream flow recommendations to sustain fish production for at least five percent of high priority streams identified annually by Division of Sport Fish staff .

Measure #1: Percent of high priority streams identified by Division of Sport Fish staff.

Instream Flow Recommendations

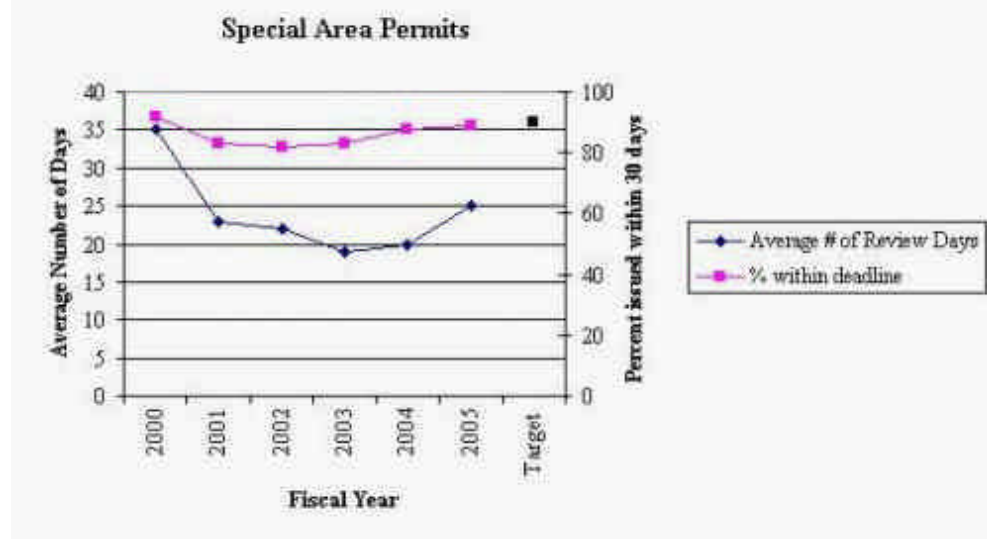
Year	YTD Total
2005	6.25%

Analysis of results and challenges: This is a new measure this year, so additional data will be available in future years. For fiscal year 2005, we provided instream flow recommendations for 6.25% of the high priority streams identified by the Division of Sport Fish. Most streams nominated with sport fishery value have limited hydrologic, and sometimes biologic, information that limit the applicability of the data for decision making purpose. Also, in addition to streams identified by Sport Fish staff, other water bodies are routinely evaluated and provided with instream flow recommendations to sustain fish production.

A4: Strategy - Manage Alaska's special areas in accordance with legislative guidelines

Target #1: Review and issue, if appropriate, 90% of special area permits within 30 days

Measure #1: Number of special area permits issued within 30 days



Analysis of results and challenges: Performance on this measure has been improving incrementally for the past several years and at 89 percent in 2005 is very close to the target.

Target #2: Increase by 1 the number of special management areas that have current management plans

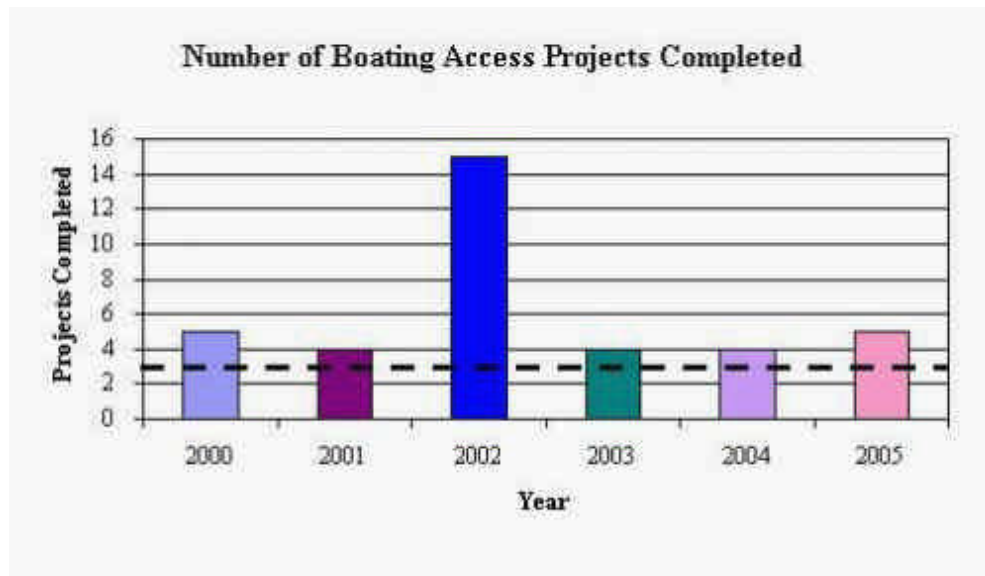
Measure #2: Percent change in number of special management areas that have management plans

Analysis of results and challenges: ADF&G manages 32 special areas (12 refuges, 3 sanctuaries, and 17 critical habitat areas). The department has completed management plans for 14 areas; another area is managed via a DNR State Park plan; and another is managed with an Interim Management Plan. The number of management plans has not increased in the past five years (2001 - 2004), although a revision of one plan was completed in 2002 and the State Park management plan was revised in 2002. 16 special areas have no management plan.

A5: Strategy - To maintain access to public resources

Target #1: Complete an average of 3 boating access projects per year over 5 years.

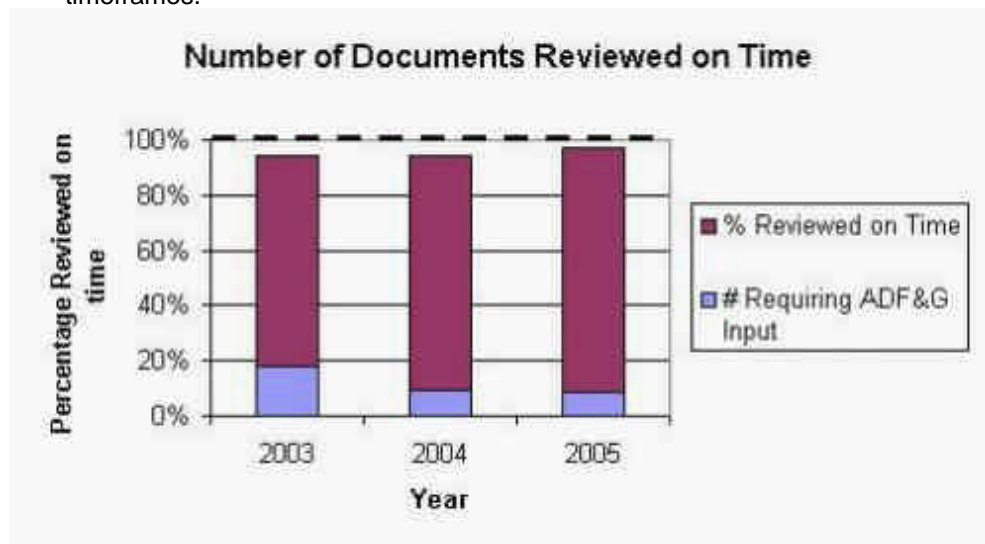
Measure #1: Number of boating access projects completed annually.



Analysis of results and challenges: The Division met its target of completing at least three boating access projects annually for each of the past six years.

Target #2: One hundred percent of legal access related documents (ANCSA conveyances, native allotment conveyances, municipal conveyances, subdivision plats, section line easements) received are reviewed within specified timeframes.

Measure #2: Percent of legal access related documents received that are reviewed within specified timeframes.



Analysis of results and challenges: The Division of Sport Fish is just short of its target of reviewing all documents within specified timeframes. The percentage of documents requiring additional effort by ADF&G to protect access is also indicated in the graph.

A6: Strategy - Educate Alaskans about the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for future generations.

Target #1: Increase the education efforts in Sport Fish Education Programs to 30,000 participants and to 60,000 contact hours.

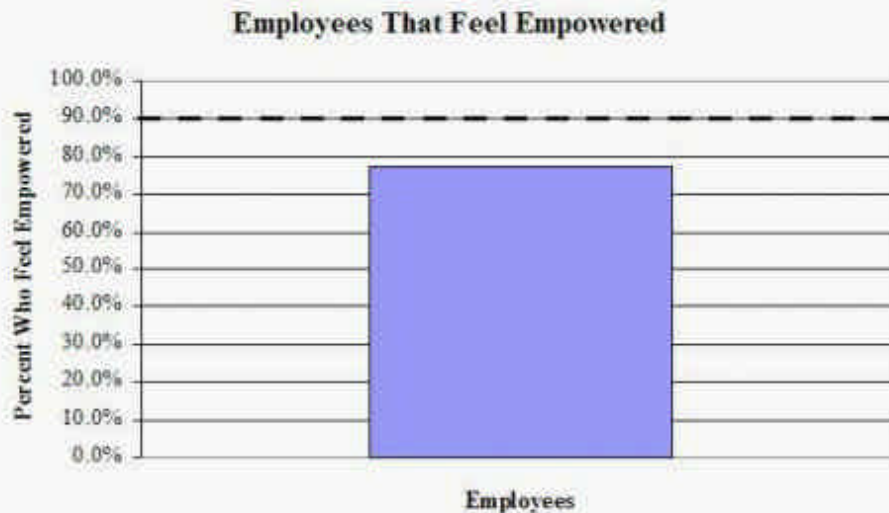
Measure #1: The number of participants and student contact hours for educational programs.

Analysis of results and challenges: In fiscal year 2005 27,126 participants spent 53,748 hours in Division of Sport Fish education programs.

A7: Strategy - Maintain a diverse, dedicated, motivated, empowered, and effective workforce

Target #1: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees that report being motivated and empowered.

Measure #1: Percentage of employees that report being motivated and empowered.



Note: The source survey for this measure was conducted in Fiscal Year 2005. The Division of Sport Fish anticipates repeating this survey periodically.

Analysis of results and challenges: The Division of Sport Fish is short of its target of 90% of its employees reporting that they are motivated and empowered. Future surveys will be conducted to track progress on this measure.

Target #2: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees that receive evaluations.

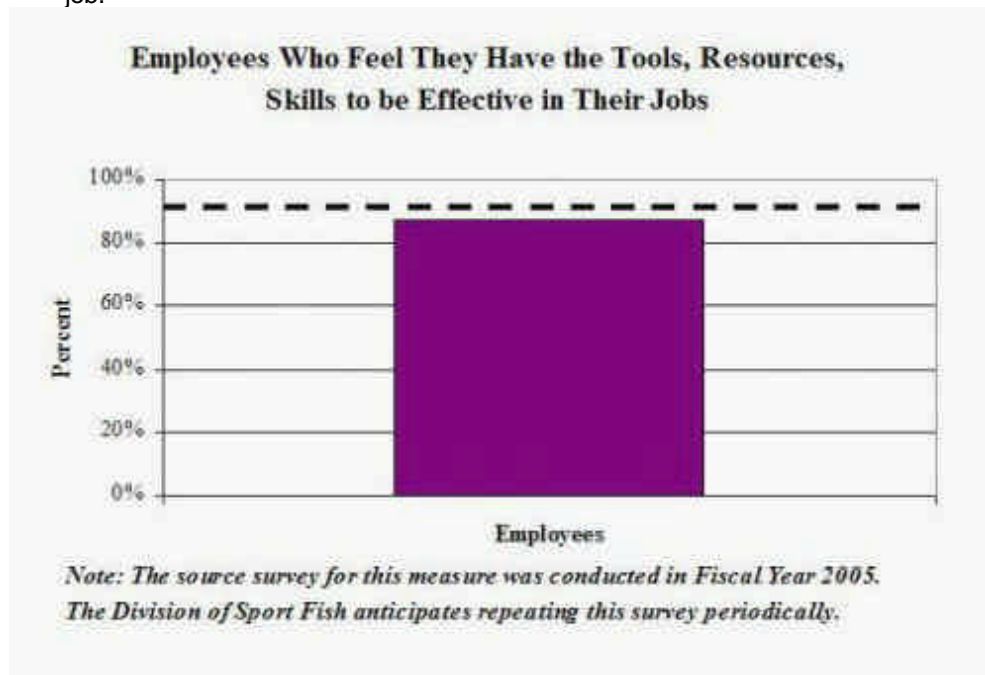
Measure #2: Percentage of employees that receive evaluations.



Analysis of results and challenges: Few employees are currently receiving evaluations. This is an area of needed improvement.

Target #3: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.

Measure #3: Percentage of employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.



Analysis of results and challenges: The Division of Sport Fish is just short of its target of 90% of its employees reporting that they have the tools, resources and skills to be effective. Future surveys will be conducted to track progress on this measure.

A8: Strategy - Maintain the sustainability of nongame aquatic fish and invertebrate populations

Target #1: Develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy by June 2005.

Measure #1: Plan completion and approval by the October 2005 deadline.

Analysis of results and challenges: The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) was completed and submitted for federal approval in August of 2005. This strategy has many self-contained targets and measures that will be reported in coming years.

Key RDU Challenges

The primary goal of this RDU is to sustain recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing the social and economic benefits these opportunities provide. Challenges that significantly impact this RDU include:

- maintaining hatchery production goals until new hatcheries authorized in 2005 are constructed;
- below target levels of resident angler satisfaction;
- maintaining hunting and fishing access as land is conveyed and restricted by federal land managers;
- assuring resource development is done responsibly and does not affect fish and wildlife and their uses;
- assuring that impact to other users is minimized while meeting the subsistence priority;
- sustaining important stocks of fish targeted by recreational anglers; and,
- management of harvest in accordance with regulatory board decisions.

One of the primary challenges facing this RDU is the threat posed to recreational fishing opportunities and the benefits they provide caused by eminent loss of hatchery capacity. With the passage and signage into law of SB147 in 2005 the long-term problem with hatchery-production was addressed. However, significant short-term problems remain until

the new facilities are constructed. Loss of heated water and issues associated with aging infrastructure will result in the Division not being able to meet current demands. The Division is exploring creative solutions to sustain current reduced stocking levels until the new facilities are constructed and operational.

Resident Alaskans are becoming increasingly aware of the tradeoffs between maximization of sport fishing opportunities and economic benefits and the perceived decline in quality of fishing experience, especially in the road accessible salmon fisheries of southcentral and interior Alaska. A result is below target levels of resident angler satisfaction. This issue is illustrated in the continuing conflict between guided and unguided chinook salmon anglers on the Kenai River. The Division is taking steps to allow for better dissemination of biological information and facilitation of communication and interaction among the user groups so that "win-win" management strategies can be developed and forwarded to the Board of Fisheries for consideration. The Division is also conducting surveys of user groups to assess angler satisfaction and demand.

Federal initiatives are fast-tracking ANILCA land conveyances. As these lands are conveyed it is necessary to assure traditional access is protected and maintained as required under law. Also, various federal land management planning activities threaten traditional access. The Division of Sport Fish is working with federal land management agencies to assure that traditional hunting and fishing access is protected and maintained.

Responsible development of Alaska's resources is a cornerstone of Alaska's economy. The Division works with various agencies to review major land and water development projects to assure that development of Alaska's resources occur without significant impact to fish and wildlife and their uses. To accomplish this, the Division houses the department's habitat permitting and review responsibilities that resulted from Executive Order 107. The Division also houses a water unit that has the lead on hydroelectric project reviews and protection of instream flows. The Division also conducts assessments and restoration of habitats necessary for sustained yield management. Finally, Alaska's special areas are managed in accordance with their statutory mandates.

Federal oversight of subsistence fishing on federal public lands and waters is increasingly resulting in a loss of sport fishing opportunity across Alaska. Federal agencies have closed state-managed sport fisheries for chinook and chum salmon in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages and for sockeye at Falls Lake, Gut Bay, Pillar Bay, and Redoubt Lake in southeast Alaska and have eliminated the use of nets in state managed subsistence fisheries in the Sargur River. The state sport fish program will strive to bring the best available scientific information to the federal subsistence decision-making process in an effort to maintain as much sport fishing opportunity as possible while assuring a subsistence priority and sustained yield.

Implementation of the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy (5 AAC 39.222), the Salmon Escapement Goal Policy (5 AAC 39.223), and the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Wild Trout (5 AAC 75.222) help ensure the sustainability of the state's fishery resources. Also, halibut are a very important resource to sport fisheries across coastal Alaska. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council manages all fishing for halibut, including sport fishing. The state sport fish program continues to work with the International Pacific Halibut Commission to collect baseline biological data and with the Council to assure halibut stocks are managed for long-term sustainability. Management of recreational chinook salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska is made more complex by the constraints associated with the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and allocation conflict among users. Maintaining the existing sport fishery in light of these complex restraints requires very precise and extensive harvest monitoring as well as participation in the technical processes of the treaty and ESA. Chinook salmon enhancement and intensive stock assessment projects are the primary means of increasing angling opportunity and harvest.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2007

The Division has been successful in meeting or exceeding many of its strategies and associated targets this past year. As such, most of the base program remains unchanged. However, the Division is focusing on several new areas in FY2007.

The Division will fulfill its commitments made to the legislature to expand recreational fishing opportunities in Southeast Alaska by supplementing State and private non-profit hatchery operations with funds from the Sport Fish Enterprise Account which was created from surcharges on sport fishing licenses as part of SB147. Specifically those projects are as follows: funding for continued operation of State owned Crystal Lake Hatchery which is losing Southeast

Sustainable Salmon Funds in FY07 (\$200.0); and production of king salmon by Northern Southeast Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) for release in the Haines area and production of king salmon by Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC) facilities for release in Skagway (\$150.0). This addresses:

- *Strategy #2 - Increase recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.* The current measure is to maintain the catch and harvest (those fish retained) number of stocked fish. Via this effort the Division expects to increase its stocking program in southeast Alaska by about 300,000 fish over the next 10 years, thereby increasing catch and harvest (those fish retained) number of stocked fish by about 1,500 over the same time period.

One of the key elements of maintaining, as well as increasing, angler participation is informing people of angling opportunities. Additionally, informing anglers of the need and importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for future generations will assure angling opportunities for future generations. In FY2007 the Division will increase our angler outreach services statewide, focusing on informing Alaskans and visitors to our state on angling opportunities and sustainable fishing practices. It will also provide funding to increase seasonal staffing support at various local Fish and Game offices. The goal is to increase consumptive use opportunities statewide. This effort addresses:

- *End Result #1, Target #1 - Maintaining increasing trends in participation fishing.* The current measure is to provide 2.5 million angler-days. Via this increment the Division expects to provide an additional 250,000 angler-days over the next 5 years.
- *Strategy #6 - Educate Alaskans about the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources and their uses for future generations.* The current goal is to increase education efforts to 30,000 participants. Via this increment the goal is to reach out to additional 2,500 participants.

Meeting public demand for recreational fishing opportunities in Alaska while at the same time maintaining and protecting fishery resources has become increasingly complex. In addition to obtaining information on participation, catch, and harvest, the Division of Sport fish and other resource decision-makers need information on the socio-economic aspects of recreational fishing in Alaska in order to maintain and improve recreational fisheries in Alaska and meet the statutory goal of optimizing the social and economic benefits to the angling public and the state. The economic impact (in terms of direct expenditures, sales, jobs and associated financial activity) of sport fishing in Alaska is an important consideration for natural resource managers who must evaluate fishery projects, assist in planning and decision-making regarding land and water resource management, and/or provide input to regulatory or policy decision-makers regarding management or allocation of aquatic resources. Although statewide estimates of economic impact of sport fishing are available for Alaska every 5-7 years as part of the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (FHWAR), the FHWAR economic estimates are based upon a relatively small sample of angler households which does not provide the level of precision desired by the Division nor the ability to develop estimates of economic impact at the region or sub-region level within Alaska as often desired by managers and regulatory or policy decision-makers. Thus, the Division has decided to periodically obtain its own estimates of economic impact of sport fishing at the statewide and regional level via contract with an economic consulting firm. The most recent economic impact assessment conducted by the Division was completed in 1999 with estimates for the 1993 fishing activity, meaning that available economic impact estimates are at best 6 years old, but more likely 10 years old. In addition to the interest in having more current estimates of the economic contribution of sport fishing to the economy of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game and the Division of Sport Fish are expected to provide annual updates on a number of key performance measures related to its management of fish and wildlife resources in Alaska, several of which are economic impact measures. Assuming that such economic impacts of sport fishing do not change annually, but over a period of a few years, the Division is looking to establish a consistent methodology for obtaining economic impact measures every 3 to 5 years to provide meaningful updates on the economic performance measures outlined in the State of Alaska Performance Measures Report. To address these needs the Division will conduct an economic survey in FY2007. This effort will allow the Division to continue to successfully address:

- *End Result #1, Target #2 - A positive trend in trip related expenditures as measured by the National Survey of Hunting and Fishing.* Currently, the Division is reliant on this national survey as its only index of the Division's primary measure of value of recreational fishery to the state. Via this increment, the Division will provide an independent and more-timely index of economic value.

Fishery managers and regulatory decision-makers often require information on the motivations, preferences and relative satisfaction of the various angling publics who participate in Alaska's diverse recreational fisheries. The Division conducted its first statewide angler market segmentation survey in 1997 to obtain baseline information on Alaska's angling publics (resident and nonresident), with the goal of periodically repeating the survey to assess trends or changes in the preferences and satisfaction of anglers relative to the mix of recreational fishing opportunities managed

by the Division. Given changes in the Alaska population as well as continued growth and expansion of the fishing tourism industry in Alaska during the past 10 years, it is important for the Division to update the quantitative information it has regarding the angling characteristics, preferences and satisfaction of anglers who participate in the state's diverse sport fisheries. In addition, since the administration of the previous survey, the Division has adopted a Strategic Plan that has as one objective: to assess and meet the demand for a variety of recreational fishing experiences in order to achieve the outcome of optimizing the social and economic benefits from recreational fishing in Alaska while sustaining those fisheries. This project is needed in order to assess whether the Division of Sport Fish is meeting its established performance measures related to optimizing social and economic benefits of sport fishing in Alaska as outlined in the Division of Sport Fish Strategic Plan and State of Alaska Performance Measures documents. Because of the geographic size of Alaska, obtaining this information through onsite methods such as creel surveys would be prohibitively expensive and would fail to provide the statewide, population-level information that is needed. To address this need the Division will conduct an angler satisfaction survey in FY2007. This effort addresses:

- *End Result #1, Target #3 - Increase to at least 75% the number of anglers that are satisfied with their recreational fisheries experiences available.* The last index of angler satisfaction was in 1997. Via this increment the Division will evaluate current satisfaction.

The Statewide Harvest Survey is the Division's primary source of statewide sport fishery harvest and effort data. This survey was recently reviewed to assure its accuracy and precision. Several issues were identified and this increment addresses the most pressing of these issues. The Division will conduct on-site creel activities designed to validate the accuracy and utility of the Statewide Harvest Survey. This effort addresses:

- End Result #1, Target #1 – Provide 2.5 million-angler-days and sell 450,000 licenses.
- Strategy #1 - Sustain recreational fisheries targeting wild stocks.
- Strategy #2 - Increase recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2005

Region I: Southeast

Sport bag limits and fishing methods for Chinook salmon were expanded via emergency regulation in 2005 in order to expand harvest opportunity for record number of treaty fish projected to be available. Harvest opportunity was also expanded, for the first time in more than 20 years, in the terminal areas near the Taku and Stikine Rivers. Bag and annual limits were increased, fishing methods liberalized, and closed waters were opened after the U.S. and Canada agreed on how to share the projected surplus projected to occur in the Stikine and Taku Rivers in 2005. The preliminary harvest for the the Southeast (SE) Region was 84,600 Chinook salmon of which 60,900 counted toward the treaty quota. Stock assessment programs continued in all major king and coho salmon producing rivers in SE Alaska. Escapement goals for king salmon were met or exceeded in 10 of 11 index streams, and met or exceeded in all major coho salmon streams. A new steelhead stock assessment project, jointly conducted with Forest Service staff, was initiated on Prince of Wales Island to improve management of sport and subsistence fisheries on small to medium-size steelhead runs. Two years of genetic sampling of legal and sub-legal Chinook salmon caught in the sport fishery will be combined with sampling performed in the commercial fisheries to identify which Chinook stocks are harvested in Alaskan waters.

Region II: Southcentral

Regulatory issues were addressed for Cook Inlet in January 2005. Harvest opportunities for chinook salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers were expanded while still assuring sustainability of future returns. Resident species regulations were standardized. Staff began work on a multi-year program studying Kasilof River late-run chinook salmon. The program will identify spawning locations and in-river run strength as well as collect basic age/sex/size data. The first egg take was conducted on returning hatchery adults in Monashka Bay, Kodiak Island. This successful project is a cooperative venture between ADF&G and Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association with the purpose of increasing chinook salmon harvest opportunity near the city of Kodiak. In Prince William Sound (PWS), a cooperative project between ADF&G, USFS, and Chugach Regional Resource Commission was completed. This project assessed sockeye salmon stocks in a remote area of PWS. Information obtained from this joint project should benefit both sport and subsistence users. A three year study on Resurrection Bay coho salmon was completed. Results determined origins of recreationally harvested coho salmon and will be available for regulatory bodies to make management decisions based on sound science. Nushagak River Chinook run was near record size with outstanding opportunities for anglers. While sockeye stocks in Cook Inlet have been above average in recent years, Susitna stocks have not met escapement objectives in 4 of past 5 years.

Region III: Interior

Both management and research staff were involved in regulatory and land issues dealing with the Copper River sport and personal use fisheries in 2005. Staff has also been involved in reviewing and updating salmon escapement goals throughout the region in 2005 in preparation for upcoming Board of Fish meetings. Staff also participated in numerous meetings dealing with federal subsistence issues and staff continues to conduct a wide variety of research projects that are beneficial to those who participate in Alaskan fisheries. A considerable amount of effort was devoted to working on the license fee increase which was successful and will greatly benefit the stocking program and enable hatchery construction. The salmon runs throughout the region were very strong and few in season restrictions were required. We continue to help support University of Alaska graduate students in order to keep a fresh pool of candidates for biologist positions.

Statewide: Research and Technical Services (RTS)

Since 1977, the Division's Research and Technical Services unit has annually estimated sport fishing effort, harvest, and catch in all areas of the state. Division staff use these estimates to determine trends in fishing pressure and harvest. Regulatory bodies use them to create regulations to assure sustained yield. Biometricians in RTS provided technical support for over 120 stock assessment and research projects for the division. Biometricians, fisheries scientists, and fisheries biologists in RTS served on committees reviewing the department's escapement goals and represented the state on national and international technical committees. Other RTS staff provided editorial and cataloging services for technical reports produced by the divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries. RTS staff assisted in the monitoring of harvest in several personal-use fisheries through permitting program. An established program concerning harvest by, and registration of, saltwater guides was expanded as per legislative mandate to cover freshwater guides and to cover licensing of boats used in all guiding businesses. Staff were instrumental in establishing minimal levels of instream flows for fish production in streams in Alaska, in licensing proposed for hydropower development, and in outreach to the public. RTS and divisional staff worked in concert to publish scientific works on development of salmon escapement goals and salmon species identification using sonar in national and international journals.

Statewide: Habitat Assessment & Restoration

With the elimination of the Habitat and Restoration Division, the Division of Sport Fish took over responsibility for issuance of permits on the state's special areas. The division permitted about 90% of applications for activities proposed in special area within 30 days. In addition, existing management plans for the state's special areas have been reviewed and prioritized for updating and the division is currently working on an update on two plans that are out-of-date (Izembek and McNeil). The Division also ramped up its access defense program in response to new federal initiatives to expedite ANILCA land conveyances. This unit also continued its review of state and federal land management plans to assure fish and wildlife resources and their uses are sustained. A cost-share program in existence since 1995 was expanded. This program provides funding for private landowner bank habitat restoration projects on the Kenai River. An update of the Fish Distribution Database and Anadromous Stream Catalog was initiated in association with the Department of Natural Resources. The Division also had the lead in responding to the M/V Selendang Ayu grounding. The Division also conducted ongoing inventory and restoration of fish passage blockages and identification and cataloging of anadromous fish habitat.

Contact Information

Contact: Kelly Hepler, Director
Phone: (907) 267-2195
Fax: (907) 267-2422
E-mail: kelly_hepler@fishgame.state.ak.us

Sport Fisheries
RDU Financial Summary by Component

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2005 Actuals				FY2006 Management Plan				FY2007 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
<u>Formula</u>												
<u>Expenditures</u>												
None.												
<u>Non-Formula</u>												
<u>Expenditures</u>												
Sport Fisheries	0.0	12,508.7	11,880.4	24,389.1	0.0	13,879.2	13,253.8	27,133.0	1,881.3	21,892.5	23,282.2	47,056.0
S.F. Special Projects	0.0	2,916.9	2,788.0	5,704.9	119.3	5,415.1	4,925.5	10,459.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sport Fisheries Habitat	261.7	1,267.1	2,244.7	3,773.5	316.3	2,260.7	3,088.0	5,665.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Assert/Protect State's Rights	0.0	0.0	217.0	217.0	0.0	0.0	238.2	238.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Totals	261.7	16,692.7	17,130.1	34,084.5	435.6	21,555.0	21,505.5	43,496.1	1,881.3	21,892.5	23,282.2	47,056.0

Sport Fisheries
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2006 Management Plan to FY2007 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2006 Management Plan	435.6	21,555.0	21,505.5	43,496.1
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Sport Fisheries	1,780.1	7,825.8	8,496.7	18,102.6
-S.F. Special Projects	-142.0	-5,415.1	-4,925.5	-10,482.6
-Sport Fisheries Habitat	-327.5	-2,260.7	-3,088.0	-5,676.2
-Assert/Protect State's Rights	-0.8	0.0	-238.2	-239.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Sport Fisheries	101.2	187.5	1,531.7	1,820.4
-S.F. Special Projects	22.7	0.0	0.0	22.7
-Sport Fisheries Habitat	11.2	0.0	0.0	11.2
-Assert/Protect State's Rights	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.8
FY2007 Governor	1,881.3	21,892.5	23,282.2	47,056.0